

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

CREATING AND CROSSING BOUNDARIES

Sunday 28th January 2024

Mass Book Page 132

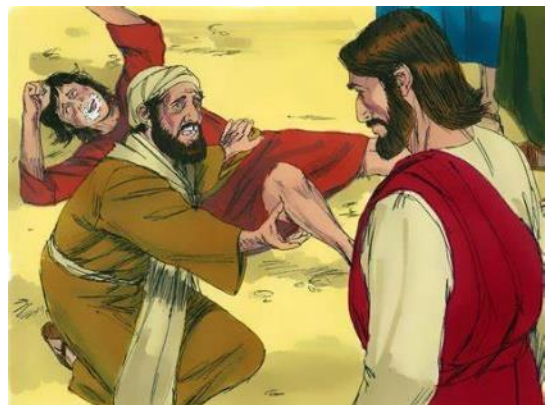
Jesus, the Beloved Son of God, enters the sacred space (synagogue) and the sacred time (sabbath) of Jewish religion. In that space and time He teaches. He asserts His right to interpret the Covenant tradition and articulate its deeper meanings. This is not what the community are used to on a Saturday morning! Here is someone who teaches with 'authority' and with 'power'. But what is He teaching?

The man who is possessed by an unclean spirit is what the teaching is about. This is a teaching about purity codes, a favourite topic of holy and religious people.

In their world view, people can be defiled by having contact with an unclean spirit. The Scribes advise avoidance. For them, people and holy places were holy to the degree that they kept their distance from what was considered to be unholy. So, staying 'pure' meant avoiding certain foods, certain actions, and certain people. A man possessed, is seen as dangerous and contagious. Therefore, the Scribes will teach, without authority, to steer clear.

The unclean spirit knows this and is counting on it. It wants to be left alone to do its dirty work. It owns this man, and anyone who prizes holiness, as surely God's Beloved Son does, will have the good sense to stay away. But Jesus, as always, has another theology. He does not respect purity boundaries. He trespasses them. The false theology of the unclean spirit, its only hope to continue its vicious domination of this child of God, is silenced. Jesus has only one thing to say and it is "Shut Up". That way of thinking is finished. It does not work. A new teaching, "Get out of Him!" means the unclean spirit has met its match. A higher authority has appeared, and it will be obeyed.

The community are amazed to see another way to deal with the fear of impurity. Do not avoid it! Bring your own strength and meet it head on. In His mission, Jesus will not tolerate anyone being harmed. The unclean spirits are silenced, told to leave, and take with them all the pain they have inflicted.



Rest in
Peace

We pray for the repose of the soul of Breda O' Regan RIP who passed away last Wednesday.

MAY THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED,
THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE.
AMEN.



GIVE Campaign Update #007



Plea for Eucharistic Ministers:

Taking communion to the sick and housebound is a great blessing for them and for the one who visits them. Would you be able to take part in this Ministry? If you feel God might be calling you to this, please contact the parish office.

First Aiders & Fire Marshals needed:

Thank you to those that have stepped forward to help!

We still need a Fire Marshal at the Saturday Vigil mass. However, the more Fire Marshals and First Aiders we can get at all masses the better.

Full training provided.

Thank you to those who have volunteered so far! We really appreciate you.

The Chosen @ Bracknell Odeon

For those of you that have been following 'The Chosen', the hit series about the life of Jesus, the latest Season is due to be released on 1st February. Bracknell Odeon (behind the Pizza Hut) will be showing it on the big screen on that day and on following Thursdays:

01/02 7:50pm – Episodes 1 & 2

15/02 7:50pm – Episodes 3, 4 & 5

29/02 7:50pm – Episodes 6, 7 & 8

To book tickets: [Get your Season 4 cinema tickets — The Chosen \(thechosentv.co.uk\)](http://thechosentv.co.uk)

Hall Rental

If anyone needs to rent the hall for a celebration or group activity, please reach out to the office who will help you book.

Planks of Wood

If anyone has any spare planks of wood lying around, a donation of them would be much appreciated so the parishes' back garden's fences can be repaired.

Cuppa & Chat, 60+

Every Tuesday,
2pm – 3pm



Children's Liturgy

04/02, both Sunday
masses



Soup & Roll

09/02, 08/03, 12/04
after 12 noon mass



This Sunday, The Fourth Sunday of the Year, is Racial Justice Sunday.

The theme of Racial Justice Sunday in England and Wales in 2024 is 'Seeing one another in the life of the Church'. There are different ways that the theme could be approached. I would like to suggest one particular way. In the history of the Church, there have been those who looked at the society in which they lived, and responded to what they saw. They looked, made a decision based on what they saw, and acted. Alert and sensitive as they were to the commandments of Christ, when they saw justice being denied to someone because of their racial origin or colour, they were prompted to act. Their actions of opposing racism, promoting equality and justice, became their life's work. Following this path, sometimes they encountered hostility, rejection, and attempts to overturn what they were doing. However, they persevered and became instruments of change, agents of progress, and some are acknowledged as saints of the Church. There are many, many saints in the Church. Each is different. Each chose to follow a particular aspect of the person of Jesus. Some saw Jesus as a teacher and devoted their lives to teaching. Some followed Jesus as one who loved the sick and opened hospices and hospitals. Others saw Jesus as the friend of the poor and gave witness to that. Among the saints are those who remembered the words of Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount: *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right. They shall be satisfied."* And then they spent their lives working that everyone would be treated justly, with fairness and without discrimination.

For Racial Justice Sunday this year, can I suggest that you explore the lives of those great men and women – those who devoted their lives to the pursuit of racial justice, those who emulated God's passion for justice, which we read about in the scriptures. They will inspire us, teach us, and make us sensitive to the importance of racial justice and why we work for it. May we too, like them, see one another in the life of the Church."



WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY WHO ARE SICK, HOUSEBOUND OR IN HOSPITAL AND FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM

Amanda Killestein	Ann D'Ambrosio	Ann Lynch	Ann O'Sullivan	Anne Hardy
Arthur Hardy	Audrey Lam	Bernard O'Neill	Beryl Pilgrim	Blanche Shap
Brenda Lynch	Bridget Riordan	Charles Hose	Claire Hose	Clarita Kokou-Tchri
Dorcas Innes-Grant	Doreen Pryor	Douglas & Bernadette Hunt	Dymphna & John Slade	Eddie & Flo Moore
Edmund & Kate Carroll	Ethna Sweeney	Inge Walker	Janet Read	Jerry & Susan Tobin
John Moir	Leonie Macintosh	Louis Burgisser	Lucia Saligo	Margaret Finnieston
Margaret Pearce	Marie Swash	Mary King	Mary Murray	Mary Phelan
Maureen Baxter	Patricia Holmwood	Phyllis Lewis		Rico Morales
Sally Torode	Sharon Bryan	Terri Landmann	Terry and Peggy McCullough	
Tony Andrews	Ursula Docherty	Vilma Taborda	Vivienne Halfpenny	Zac Hoy

To add or remove a name to this list with consent, please contact the Parish Office.

If you or your relative is housebound, or because of illness cannot come to Mass and wish to receive Holy Communion at home, call the office on 01344 425729 or email office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

PARISH OF ST JOSEPH and ST MARGARET CLITHEROW, BRACKNELL

Parish Priest: Fr. Daniel McAvoy **Deacon:** Rev. Aidan Lynch

Parish Administrators: Francis Barton and Donna Mody

Safeguarding Team: Marion McGuire, Sarah Birch, Paula Read

07712 048695 safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

Parish Office, St. Joseph's Church, 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1HA

Office Hours: Monday - Tuesday 9:00-3:00pm, Wednesday - Friday 9:00-5:00pm

Telephone: 01344 425729

Email: office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org **Website:** <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org>

MASS TIMES

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday	27th	6pm	Mass	<i>Stuart Birley RIP</i>
Sunday	28th	8:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Philip Kuroblowski FHC</i>
Monday	29th	NO MASS		
Tuesday	30th	10am	Mass	<i>Chief Hyacienth Okye Egbeama RIP</i>

ST. JOHN BOSCO, Founder, memorial

Wednesday	31st	10am	Mass	<i>Dermot Dunleavy RIP</i>
Thursday	1st	10am	Mass	

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD, feast

Friday	2nd	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12 noon	Mass	<i>Peter & Catherine Confidile RIP</i>
Saturday	3rd	10am	Mass	
		11am	Confessions	

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday	3rd	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	4th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Marta Carvalho RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Casimir Francis Xavier RIP</i>

ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/watch-live>

New to our parish or not yet registered?

<https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/parish-life/parish-registration>



01344 425729

office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

Are you lonely? Are you ill and in need of prayer and/or support? Perhaps you have not had contact with the Catholic Church for a while. Whatever the reason, please do get in touch for a chat.



07852 497 218 / 07851 200 987

office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

Are you in the land of loss & would appreciate a chat with someone in our group? If so, do not hesitate to get in touch.



Call **IN CONFIDENCE**
07731 862 349

If you are struggling financially and need practical assistance, the local Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) may be able to help. Do call us in confidence for a chat.

DONATIONS TO PARISH FUNDS Online, Bank Transfer, DD, <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/give/>

BANK DETAILS: Account Name: CDP Bracknell St Joseph Sort Code: 30-93-04; Account Number: 00875520

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: **CDP BRACKNELL ST JOSEPH**

South Berkshire Pastoral Area, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registration Number: 1199568